

REMARKS

Claims 20-29 and 32-35 are pending in the application and have been examined. Claims 33-35 are allowed. Claim 20-29 and 32 stand rejected. Claims 20-23 have been amended. Claim 32 has been canceled. Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claim 32 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 32 stands rejected as being indefinite in its recitation of "the conifer species" due to lack of antecedent basis. Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitation of Claim 32, which has been canceled.

The Rejection of Claims 20-29 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as Being Unpatentable Over Bridgwater in View of El-Kassaby et al. and Further in View of Soehr et al.

Claims 20-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bridgwater in view of El-Kassaby et al., and further in view of Soehr et al. In order to facilitate prosecution, Claim 20, from which Claims 21-29 depend, has been amended to include the limitation of Claim 32, which is now canceled. The Examiner has indicated that Claim 32 is free of the prior art, given the failure of the prior art to teach or reasonably suggest a method of Loblolly pine breeding comprising the combination of pedigree breeding, polymix breeding and DNA markers. Accordingly, removal of this ground of rejection and allowance of Claims 20-29 is respectfully requested,

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 33-35 are allowable.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tineka J. Quinton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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